

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the title of the application as follows :

IMPROVED DRAINAGE GRATE

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] As seen best in Figs. 3A and 3B, the drainage grate assembly of the invention further includes a reinforcing member 10. As shown, reinforcing member 10 is an essentially rectangular piece of solid material dimensioned to fit within the inner ~~diameter~~ dimension (I.D.) and inner thickness (I.T.) (Fig. 2) of the drainage grate 1. When disposed within the grate 1, the upper surface 12 of the reinforcing member 10 abuts against the bottom surface 9 of the drainage grate 1 and is retained there by the abutment of the bottom surface 16 of the reinforcing member against the inner surfaces of the flange portions 7. The reinforcing member 10 is preferably made of plastic. Suitable plastics for using in the invention will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art in view of the instant disclosure. Preferably, the plastic is polyvinyl chloride (PVC), high density polyethylene (HDPE) or polypropylene. The member 10 can be molded or extruded and machined using well known plastic manufacturing techniques within the level of skill in the art in view of the instant disclosure. The reinforcing member 10 is preferably injection molded.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] As seen in Fig. 3A, in one embodiment of the invention, the bottom surface 16 also includes a plurality of slots 18 interposed between apertures 14. The slots 18 are dimensioned so as to receive one or more metal reinforcing strips 30 (Fig. 7). The metal reinforcing strips can be of any suitable dimension so long as they fit within slots 19 and are capable of spanning the inner ~~diameter~~ dimension (Fig. 2) of the drainage grate, whereby they are retained within the reinforcing member 10 by flange portions 7. A preferred metal strip according to the invention, shown general at 30 in Fig. 7, is configured so as to have shoulder portions 32 which are adapted to rest adjacent flange portions 7, and a thicker body portion 34 for providing additional support to the middle portion of the drainage surface. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 7, at least some of the metal slots further include notches 36. When the reinforcing member includes securing detents 18 (Fig. 3B), the notches 36 prevent those reinforcing strips 30 adjacent the detents 8 from interfering with the crimping or stamping of the flange portions into the adjacent detents.

Please revise the **ABSTRACT** section of the specification as follows:

ABSTRACT

~~An improved~~ A drainage grate assembly having a drainage grate which is reinforced by a substantially continuous reinforcing member confined within the grate. The load rating for the drainage grate assembly can be adjusted by adding metal strips which can be disposed within and retained by the reinforcing member.